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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,865	02/23/2004	Takeshi Oono	Q79595	7079
23373	7590	03/14/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037				WOOD, KEVIN S
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2874		

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/782,865	OONO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin S. Wood	2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/11/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

NON-FINAL REJECTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1-6) in the reply filed on 12 January 2006 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 7-12 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12 January 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,960,031 to McFarland et al.
5. Referring to claim 1, the McFarland et al. reference discloses a substrate assembly for supporting an optical component an optical transmission function, comprising: a substrate (120) having a front surface and a first recess (116) having an open end at least at the front surface; a second recess formed portion (124) disposed in

the first recess (116) and having a second recess (124) smaller in diameter than the first recess and having an open end at least at a side corresponding to the front surface, the second recess formed portion being made of a material having a machinability better than a material forming the substrate; and an alignment guide member (612) fitted in the second recess and having a protruded portion protruding from the front surface of the substrate and fittingly engageable in an alignment hole of the optical component (112).

See Fig. 1-9 of the reference along with. The optical component (112) and the substrate (120) are integrated so that when the alignment pins engage the substrate they also engage the optical component.

Referring to claim 2, the McFarland et al. reference discloses that the second recess (124) is a high precision. It is inherent that the sleeve (124) would be machined in some manner. See Fig. 1-9 of the reference along with.

Referring to claim 4, the McFarland et al. reference discloses the substrate (120) has a positioning reference portion that serves as a reference for positioning of an optical component (502) and for forming the second recess (124). See Fig. 1-9 of the reference along with. See Fig. 1-9 of the reference along with. It is inherent that when forming the recesses and aligning the optical components, a portion of the substrate (120) is used as a reference point.

Referring to claim 5, the McFarland et al. reference discloses the second recess (124) serves as a reference for positioning of an optical device (104). See Fig. 1-9 of the reference along with. See Fig. 1-9 of the reference along with.

Referring to claim 6, the McFarland et al. reference discloses the substrate comprises two first recesses (116,118) each having the second recess (124,126) formed portion formed with the second recess and a positioning reference portion disposed between the second recesses so as to serve as a reference for positioning of the second recess. See Fig. 1-9 of the reference along with. See Fig. 1-9 of the reference along with. It is inherent that when forming the recesses and aligning the optical components, a portion of the substrate (120) is used as a reference point.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,960,031 to McFarland et al.

Referring to claim 3, the McFarland et al. reference discloses the substrate (120) may be made from a ceramic however it does not appear to specifically disclose that the second recess (124) is formed from an inorganic material. The application does not

disclose the criticality of the recess being formed from an inorganic material. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a non-organic metal or metal alloy to form the second recess (124), since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. The McFarland et al. reference disclosed that the second recess sleeve (124) may be formed from a conductive material. Non-organic metals and metal alloys would be suitable for use as the alignment sleeves and would provide the desired conductive properties.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin S. Wood whose telephone number is (571) 272-2364. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney B. Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kevin S. Wood
Patent Examiner